

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury.

THE MEMORIAL of the several FREEHOLDERS of the Principality of Wales, whose names are hereunto subscribed, on the behalf of themselves and the other Freeholders there.

Sheweth,

THAT your Memorialists, as Freeholders within the Principality, are surprized and concerned, to find a new office unnecessarily created by your LORDSHIPS WARRANT, bearing date the 20th of November, 1778, vesting in the person of Mr. John Probert EXTRAORDINARY POWERS, which have greatly alarmed the inhabitants of the principality in general, as such powers may, in the execution of them, prove *injurious* TO THEIR PROPERTY.

YOUR Memorialists, therefore, beg leave to state to your Lordships, that altho' *some* of his Majesty's *Fee Farm, or other Rents*, may be considerably *in arrear*, yet the Land Revenue of the Crown is NOT thereby DIMINISHED.

THAT the OFFICERS to whom the care of this part of the PUBLICK REVENUE is committed, are COMPETENT, and their STIPENDS ADEQUATE to the duty and importance of the charge; and it must be imputed to their NEGLECT and INATTENTION that such *Rents* are NOT collected or properly ACCOUNTED for.

YOUR MEMORIALISTS are still more surprized and alarmed to find the said Mr. Probert invested by the said WARRANT with an authority "to make Plans, " *Estimates, and Surveys of THE many large Forests, Lordships, and extensive tracts* " of waste Lands within the said Principality, and to manage the same in such manner " as your Lordships, or his Majesty's Surveyor General shall from time to time direct, " and to treat with persons willing to become tenants to the Crown for leases of mines, " tenements, cottages and inclosures, and for INCLOSING ANY waste commons and " UNCULTIVATED LANDS;" which general description and powers have been construed to import, That your Lordships consider ALL such Lands to be the PROPERTY of the CROWN, against which claim it is our duty to PROTEST; for We know of no *uncultivated* Lands or *Commons* within the Principality in which the Crown has *any property*, except the wastes of the Crown Manors, and Forests, and OVER THEM your Memorialists and others have undoubted RIGHTS OF COMMON, and OTHER RIGHTS of various kinds, which OUGHT NOT TO BE INVADED by any inclosure, or otherwise, under any authority derived from the Crown.

YOUR Memorialists are apprehensive if your Lordships said WARRANT should be acquiesced in, and Plans, Estimates, and Surveys made in pursuance thereof, the estates and property of individuals would probably be included, and evidence might be deduced therefrom, prejudicial to their rights, and such as might hereafter give colour to claims totally groundless and unjust.

From

From the terms in which those authorities are conveyed, and from a power given for *ascertaining the estates* out of which the Fee Farm, and other Rents due to the Crown, and in arrear, ought to issue, it may be supposed that the property of the Crown is not known with precision, that the extent of the Forests is uncertain, the bounds of the Lordships not distinguished, and the waste Lands not ascertained. If such a supposition should be well founded, it affords no colour for giving the authorities which this Warrant imports: On the contrary, We apprehend, that whatever may be necessary to be done, should be done in the ordinary legal course by which surveys of the Crown Lands have usually been, and by which alone they can *constitutionally* be made.

The several powers to *treat and contract* with persons *willing* to become Tenants to the Crown for *Leases of Mines, Tenements, Cottages, and Inclosures*, have given rise to apprehensions that adventurers may thereby be prompted to take Leases of our estates, the attempts whereof would unavoidably draw us into expensive suits and controversies, even if the Officer, who, under the provisions of this Warrant, is made to find his *private account in it*, should not be induced to promote *litigations with the Crown*, AN EVIL which We have equal reason to fear and to deprecate, as such contests are in all cases unequal, and whatever may ultimately be the event, must be attended with the utter ruin of the smaller freeholders of the Principality, because no costs are in any case awarded against the Crown.

We cannot conclude without taking notice, that as the present INSUFFICIENCY of the revenues of the principality for the purposes to which they are applicable, are understood to have given occasion for this warrant, it appears to us somewhat singular that it should have been thought a suitable remedy for such a mischief to INCUMBER those revenues with a NEW OFFICE, a STIPEND OF THREE HUNDRED POUNDS *a year*, and such FURTHER CHARGES as may arise under the name of DISBURSEMENTS AND EXPENCES in the performance of a business which we conceive cannot be executed without GREAT DETRIMENT TO INDIVIDUALS, nor with the smallest prospect of a possible benefit to the Public.

We have thought it a DUTY to ourselves and the other *Freeholders* of the *Principality* to REPRESENT our sense of this transaction to your Lordships, confiding in your Lordships JUSTICE, that THIS WARRANT will be REVOKED AND VACATED.

Grosvenor,
Ancaster and Kesteven,
J. St. Asaph,
Derby,
Boston,
Bulkeley,
Wat. Williams Wynn,
H. Mackworth,
Wm. Mostyn Owen,
Thos. Jobnes,
Thos. Jobnes jun.
Chas. Morgan,
John Morgan,

Edw. Lewis,
Rich. Pennant,
Roger Mostyn,
Hugh Owen,
Granby,
Rich. Myddelton,
George Rice,
Milford,
Hugh Owen,
George Prescott,
Charles Gould,
J. Campbell,
Lisburne,
John Adams,
T. A. Smith,
Watkin Williams,
H. Williams,
A. Curzon,
Thomas Egerton,
Evan Lloyd Vaughan,
W. Bagot,
John Pennant,
C. Finch,
Geo. Venables Vernon,
H. Thrale,
William Pulteney,
Glynn Wynne,
Phil. Yorke,
W. Hanmer,
Chas. Kenys Tyte,
Owen Putland Meyrich
Watkin Lewes,
Richard Vaughan,
Robert Moxon.
Paul Panton,
Thomas Jones,
R. Godolphin Owen,
John Parry,
L. Kenyon,
Thos. Harcourt Powell,

B. R. Hodgkinson,
William Lloyd,
John Wogan,
Thomas Fothergill,
Holland Griffiths,
J. Williams,
John Lewis,
John Vaughan,
Ellis Pugh,
W. Hughes,
David Roberts,
John Lloyd,
E. Meyrick,
Edward Jones,
Tobias Williams,
John Evans,
M. Buckley,
John Evans,
Thomas Peake,
Richard Heaton,
Hugh Lloyd,
C. Owen,
John Owen,
Thomas Price,
Robert Jones,
W. Syer,
Thomas Jones,
Thomas Williams,
Jeff. Prendergast,
Henry Proctor,
Geo. Lld. Meares,
Charles Owen,
Richard Jones,
John Jones,
S. Bulkeley,
Joseph Williams,
Bell Lloyd,
C. F. Palmer,
Charlton Leighton,
Thomas Hanmer,

**M E M O R I A L
O F T H E
F R E E H O L D E R S
O F T H E**

P R I N C I P A L I T Y O F W A L E S ,

Against the Treasury Warrant, and Appointment of John Roberts as an Assistant to the Revenue Officers, and for inclosing the waste and uncultivated Lands in the Principality,

1779.